

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Competiveness and Jobs Project
LOAN NUMBER 8528-YF

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

PEER REVIEWER(S)

The Republic of Serbia has been granted a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Bank) to improve its competitiveness and employment through the **Competiveness and Jobs Project (Project)** and intends to engage at least 50 qualified individuals in following areas of industry, science and technology:

- 1) Energy and energy efficiency;
- 2) Life sciences;
- 3) Civil engineering and construction materials;
- 4) Machines and mechanical engineering;
- 5) Electrical engineering;
- 6) Information and communication technologies;
- 7) Food science and agriculture;
- 8) Environmental science and
- 9) New materials and nanotechnologies.

The Project incorporates three ministries — the Ministry of Economy (plus its development agencies), Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs and the Public Policy Secretariat (PPS) in implementation and piloting of the policy planning, monitoring and coordination (PPMC) System. Through the PPMC System, the three Ministries and participating agencies, with leadership and support from the PPS, will set performance targets on competitiveness and jobs, monitor and evaluate progress, conduct analysis, and contribute to policy development in the Republic of Serbia.

The Project is structured in two interconnected parts:

- 1) Part A - which uses a results-based financing modality for the results achieved in four thematic components:
 - a. A.1. Policy planning, monitoring, and coordination;
 - b. A.2. Investment and Export Promotion;
 - c. A.3. Innovation;
 - d. A.4. Labor,
- 2) Part B - includes technical support in project management and implementation, including the procurement of goods, consulting services, non-consultant services, Training and Operating costs.

Subject assignment belongs under the **Component A3. Innovation**, which is implemented by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD) through **the Innovation Fund (IF)**. This Project Component supports the implementation of the Republic of Serbia's program for strengthening business innovation, enhancing technology transfer and improvement of the performance of the research sector towards economy and society. The focus of this Component is the support to the implementation of the Mini and Matching Grants programs (MGs programs) through the Innovation Fund.

In order to secure objectivity, transparency and quality of the evaluation of the project proposals submitted within the MGs programs, the IF has secured international peer review selection process by engaging qualified individuals for Peer Reviewers.

The IF is looking to engage 50 qualified individuals as Peer Reviewers with expertise required to cover relevant areas of industry, science and technology: energy and energy efficiency, life sciences, civil engineering and construction materials, machines and mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, information and communication technologies, food science and agriculture, environmental science and new materials and nanotechnologies.

Objective of the Assignment

The objective of this assignment is to assist the IF by providing technical expert evaluation of the project proposals submitted for financing in accordance with the MGs programs evaluation criteria. The Peer Reviewers will leverage their expertise to produce high quality evaluations for each project they are assigned and which they accept to evaluate, as to ensure valuable insight to be subsequently utilized by the IF's independent Investment Committee in the overall evaluation process.

Scope of work

The general functions and responsibilities of the Peer Reviewer are:

- Evaluating detailed project proposals based on the evaluation criteria listed in the Grant Manual and in line with the Review Guidelines;
- Submitting the comments and scores for the project in the Review Evaluation Form (via IF's online Portal, except where and if requested otherwise), to the IF Program Manager.

Name of the Peer Reviewer is confidential and he/she must declare any conflict of interest prior to undertaking the evaluation of a particular project proposal.

Assignments will be delegated as needed by the IF Program Manager.

Timing and Duration

The assignment is expected to start approximately in September 2017 and last until December 31, 2018. Generally, the Peer Reviewers are expected to provide their services during September/October 2017 and September/October 2018, but these time frame should be consider flexible and subject to change.

Experience and Qualifications

The person suitable for this position should have the following qualifications:

General Qualifications and experience

- Advanced university degree in science or engineering
- At least 5 years of work experience in the field of applied research
- Experience in conducting peer review
- Fluency in English
- Good computer skills (Office programs).

Specific Qualifications and experience

- Proven experience in R&D project management in any of the following fields: energy and energy efficiency, life sciences, civil engineering and construction materials, machines and mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, information and communication technologies, food science and agriculture, environmental science and new materials and nanotechnologies
- Proven advisory skills - preferred industry consulting experience (memberships in advisory bodies, mentoring experience, industry employment or joint projects is preferred)
- Excellence in academic and/or industry R&D (experience in conducting cutting-edge research in the field of interest, publications in leading journals, patents, invited lectures at leading conferences).

The Innovation Fund (IF) now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services.

The individual consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IF's general Rulebook on procedures for selection of independent international experts for the purpose of implementation of the IF's financing programs (March 2017).

Interested and eligible individual consultants should send expressions of interest, together with information on relevant experience and CV (including information on relevant experience), by e-mail to the contact information listed below.

When submitting Expressions of interest please indicate area of expertise and reference number for which you are applying.

Expressions of interest must be delivered by June 23, 2017.

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